



## **Letter: Registered dietitians should be licensed like other health care professionals**

**MLive/Kalamazoo Gazette opinion By MLive/Kalamazoo Gazette opinion**  
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*The following is a letter to the editor that was sent to the Kalamazoo Gazette.*

Jeffrey Brasie and Craig Magnatta, Lansing

When a plumber enters your residence they are licensed by the State of Michigan, a barber or cosmologist is also licensed by the state, as well as an acupuncturist.

Within the health care profession, physicians, nurses, various therapists, dentists, social workers, and numerous other categories are licensed, regulated and monitored by the state.

An integral part of the health care team are registered dietitians, who in concert with primary care providers (Patient Centered Medical Homes) and other specialists, guide patient care with critical issues such as diabetes, obesity, and hypertension - all increasing within Michigan.

House Bill 4688 is moving its way into the Michigan Senate. If passed, within Michigan, registered dietitians and nutritionists would no longer need to be licensed.

This would be a very dangerous and impractical practice to have care plans developed, which may not be in the best interest of a patient's care.

On behalf of Michigan's nearly ten million residents, we encourage you to immediately contact your state representative or senator asking them to keep this licensure intact.

After all, having a licensed mechanic is important when working on your vehicle.

When it comes to your personal health, why wouldn't you want a licensed registered dietitian/nutritionist guiding you and working with your health care team?

*Craig Magnatta, D.O., board chair and Jeffrey D. Brasie, M.A., executive director of the Michigan Primary Care Consortium, a statewide, multi-stakeholder non-profit corporation promoting sustainable, quality and accessible primary care. The consortium is a leading advocate for the Patient Centered Medical Home*



Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Ms. Ann Hoffman, *President*  
The Michigan Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
22811 Greater Mack Avenue, Number 105  
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080

Dear Ms. Hoffman:

The Michigan Primary Care Consortium represents providers, payers, centers of academics who train physicians and clinicians, business and industry (such as Ford Motor, United Auto Workers and Chrysler), numerous health care associations, health care systems, and departments of public health.

We would like to express our opposition to House Bill 4688, which would reverse licensure of registered dietitians and nutritionists.

The Consortium strongly supports the Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMH) team delivery approach. The PCMH model is able to effectively help patients manage chronic diseases such as diabetes, kidney disease, and hypertension.

Registered dietitians and nutritionists are an integral part of the PCMH delivery approach. The PCMH model is able to maximize its effectiveness and credibility by having all professional team members being licensed. Removing the requirement to license registered dieticians and nutritionists would weaken, not strengthen the PCMH model.

In addition, as many new patients are able to join PCMH practices through the Medicaid expansion program, it is critical that registered dieticians and nutritionists be knowledgeable and up-to-date in all nutritional aspects of care. Maintaining the licensing requirement allows all patients to know that they are receiving safe and quality care.

Thanking you for your prompt attention to ensure that this reversal does not occur.

Respectfully,

Craig Magnatta, D.O.  
Board Chair

Devorah Rich, Ph.D.  
Public Policy Committee Chair

Jeffrey D. Brasie, M.A.  
Executive Director

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